

The University of Notre Dame
South Bend, IN

Mechanical Engineering
Bachelor of Science, May 2002

**NASA Academy Research Project:
Advanced Animal Habitat
Centrifuge Project**

Principal Investigator: Paul Espinosa



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Experience:

Physics and math were my favorite subjects in high school so when I came to Notre Dame I knew I wanted to enter a technical field like engineering. I find myself constantly asking the question, “How does that work?” Through my mechanical engineering studies I have started to learn some of the answers.

As part of my mechanical engineering curriculum I have studied a broad range of subjects including mechanics, thermodynamics, solid and fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, control systems, heat transfer, and engineering design. Although most of my studies have been prescribed I have had the opportunity to pursue some unique courses of study. Last summer I participated in the Notre Dame engineering program in London, England. While overseas I studied engineering economics and engineering ethics and traveled around Great Britain, Scotland, and Ireland. During my senior year I have been working on a research project with Dr. James Mason and Zimmer Inc. of Warsaw, IN. Zimmer is one of the nations leading manufacturers of orthopaedic implant devices. Currently I am assisting in the research of a new minimally invasive orthopaedic implant device utilized in femoral fracture fixation.

Next year I will be attending graduate school in biomedical engineering, although I am not yet sure where I will be going. I plan to complete my masters as well as prepare myself to apply for entrance into medical school.

Extra-Curricular Interests:

I have always enjoyed spending my free time in the outdoors. I earned the BSA Eagle Scout Award in 1997. For two summers in high school I lived in a tent for eight weeks and instructed boy scouts in all sorts of water sports, including sailing Sunfish sailboats. I own an ocean kayak and for two summers I was a kayaking instructor at a camp on the Long Island Sound. I have been somewhat ‘obsessed’

with skiing and snowboarding since I was twelve years old. Sadly I go to school in Indiana where it snows often but is extremely flat. On school breaks I head up north to Vermont as much as possible.

At school I like to watch our football team, the Fighting Irish. I have seen twenty-five home games over the past four years. I also have followed our team half way across the U.S. to destinations like Lincoln, Nebraska, Boston, Massachusetts, and Tempe, Arizona.

I like traveling, especially taking long road trips in the family Chevy Tahoe, which has 128,000 miles on the odometer and counting. I hope to one day drive through all of the fifty states and I am sure my travels this summer will help me see even more of our country.